THIRD ANNUAL MESSAGE
OF
GOVERNOR
George Bell Timmerman, Jr.
TO THE
SOUTH CAROLINA
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Columbia
January 9, 1957
Mr. President, Mr. Speaker, Members of the General Assembly:

At its 1956 session, the General Assembly enacted a law “To Provide for the Development and Regulatory Activities Relating to the Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy.”

In so doing, South Carolina acknowledged that it had passed the threshold into the Atomic Age. The years ahead hold magnificent possibilities for mankind to enjoy unsurpassed health, comfort, and security.

The metal bar, which I have here, is a slug of uranium. Its potential energy is equal to the energy in 30 million pounds of coal!

Now, I hold what apparently is a fresh piece of steak. Actually, it is almost a year old. It has never been subjected to refrigeration. It is as fresh as the day it was slaughtered. This meat has been exposed to Atomic radiation and will remain in its present form indefinitely. You can readily see the possibilities of supplying large quantities of fresh meat to the public without complicated refrigeration problems.

These examples have been furnished me by the Atomic Energy Commission’s Savannah River Project.

The atom has made it possible to produce a submarine that can stay under water indefinitely; electricity can be produced from nuclear reactors; new and startling treatments of human illnesses are being rapidly developed through radioisotopes. And scientists say we are daily on the verge of new developments of vast consequences. When research hits the right combination, we will burst through the barrier into a brilliant atomic future.

INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

At this early point in the Atomic Age, I would like to tell you something of the state of our State.

Since 1944, the phenomenal sum of $1 1/4 billion dollars has been invested by industry in South Carolina. That is exclusive of the mammoth Savannah River Project.

During 1956, money spent or allocated for expansions and new plants totaled almost $142 million dollars. This means nearly five thousand new jobs with an annual payroll of $13 million dollars. Despite a decline in industrial development, which was nation-wide, 1956 was one of our more successful years.
As a result of the last two years, which were our two greatest in industrial development and diversification, the present economic outlook is exceptionally bright. Job opportunities are better than ever. In October, the textile industry granted a wage increase estimated at 30 million dollars. In terms of pay, it was the equivalent of 11 thousand new jobs. The business trend is good, and State revenues have swung upward.

I hope we can provide our essential and immediately solvable needs without additional taxes and at the same time meet our obligation to maintain a balanced budget and a sound fiscal policy. Certainly, new taxes should never be imposed until the absolute need for them has been firmly established.

**HIGHWAYS**

We can look forward to increased industrial activity in 1957. In addition, the State is beginning its largest highway construction program. Scheduled projects total 50 million dollars—double that spent last year. During the next three years, highway construction will total 163 million dollars.

This accelerated program is destined to have a far-reaching, beneficial effect on our entire economy. Many new jobs will be created, and immense amounts of equipment and materials used.

But the real benefit will be savings in lives. Control access highways, which I recommended and you approved, have a death rate only one-fourth that of conventional roads.

Economically, we have entered the Atomic Age with our pocketbook in good repair. But the atom presents many other problems which we shall have to face eventually.

**REPORTS**

During the past year, the Southern Governors' Conference, with thoughtful anticipation and foresight, sponsored a study of the effect of nuclear energy on the Southern States. Six South Carolinians, including the director of the State Development Board, participated.

Since then a permanent advisory group has been set up to make recommendations to the Southern Governors on the regional level.

To insure that South Carolina is kept well informed on nuclear industrial advances, I have appointed a Governor's Committee on Nuclear Energy Development composed of the six who worked on the regional study.
Another example of foresight so mandatory for modern government is the remarkable job done by the Fiscal Survey Commission in the close examination of our needs. Those who participated in this important work deserve our commendation. The fruits of their labors should not be ignored. Although their reports contain some controversial recommendations, I commend them to you for thorough study.

You also should consider carefully the recommendations of the Forestry Study Committee. The wood-using industry is the second largest in our State, but through ignorance and fire, tremendous damage is done annually to our timber. We should exercise every safeguard and encourage consistent conservation if we are to maintain our prime natural resources.

We have, at the same time, humanitarian responsibilities, sufficiently serious to command your attention. One is pointed out in the report of the committee that studied the problem of rehabilitating alcoholics.

**SANATORIUM**

Another involves the large number of patients who leave the South Carolina Sanatorium without permission before completing treatment. Through a quirk of medicine, those who are infected by these partially cured tubercular patients can become almost immune to modern treatments.

**HIGHWAY SAFETY**

But the greatest humanitarian responsibility we have yet to fulfill is to stop the appalling slaughter of our citizens on the highways. While the new highway program should go a long way toward eliminating accidents, another hazard is the unfit driver. The State Highway Department tells me there are at least several thousand licensed drivers who are unable to drive safely.

I, therefore, recommend the adoption of legislation authorizing the Highway Department to examine any licensed driver it has good cause to believe is incapable of safely operating a motor vehicle.

I urge all State and local school officials to encourage driver education. It is vital to safety.

South Carolina also should have a motor vehicle title law.

**SEGREGATION**

I have no further recommendations at this time for changing our segregation laws. We were among the first to put our house in order. It is to the credit of all our citizens that we have not been disturbed.
by serious outbreaks of violence. I know that you share with me the hope of continued peace and good order.

**LAW ENFORCEMENT**

I also take pride in reporting that, as a result of the State Law Enforcement Division's activities, state revenue from alcoholic liquors increased more than 300 thousand dollars in the first five months of this fiscal year. More than 15 hundred stills and nearly 14 thousand gallons of moonshine were destroyed. During the year, law enforcement training was intensified. Agents were sent to the FBI National Academy, the Southern Police Institute and other special training schools. We have now a modern criminal laboratory. SLED agents participated in more than 15 hundred arrests, including apprehension of several notorious bank robbers and other major criminals. More than 45 thousand dollars in fines were received by various counties and municipalities as a result.

Law enforcement generally has been improved, but there is more to be done. SLED is now in position to operate the Law Enforcement Training School. It is presently under the Extension Division of the University. I believe that properly this school should be operated by SLED.

**OPPORTUNITY SCHOOL**

There is another school which I hope you will consider. For a number of years, the State has appropriated funds to operate the Opportunity School. It has provided a “second chance” for 97 hundred men and women who in earlier life failed to receive an education. Its greatest need today will cost the State nothing.

Miss Wil Lou Gray, founder and head of the institution, plans to retire soon. Her hope is that this legislature will give the Opportunity School legal status and a governing board to insure its continued operation. I recommend that this be done.

**EMPLOYEES—TEACHERS**

In the past two years we have done much to provide our teachers and other employees with deserved retirement benefits. Social Security is now extended or is available to all public school teachers and to the employees of every political entity. South Carolina has more than 75 thousand covered by this program. It is one of the best in existence.
Attractive as this is, our State is finding it increasingly difficult to get and hold qualified personnel. Salaries generally are too low and inequities exist. We have loyal employees and capable department heads. Many would draw higher salaries for comparable work in private business.

I do not have to tell you about the increased cost of living.

Many agencies, with lump sum appropriations, have adjusted salaries to meet the situation. A number of selective salary increases for itemized positions have been granted by the General Assembly.

But, other agencies have been unable to make fair adjustments due to a predominance of itemized positions, or a lack of funds.

A salary adjustment in line with the recommendations of the Budget and Control Board would reduce inequities and provide a needed and deserved pay raise for our employees.

We also have included in our report provision for an overdue increase in teachers' salaries.

We believe that anticipated revenue will be sufficient within the limits of our proposed budget.

**Physical Improvements**

As we begin to enjoy a brighter future, we must be struck by the contrasting dark-age conditions which exist in some of our institutions and agencies.

We are a people who intend to carry with us into the future our heritage of conservative character and our traditions of historic values. It startled me to learn that little has been done to protect the records and documents which are tangible evidences of our splendid history.

**Archives Department**

Our State Archives Department is responsible for preserving historical State documents. In addition, it is required to receive regularly non-current records from other State agencies.

The Department has one of the finest collections of original Colonial and early Nineteenth century manuscripts in the United States. This collection is being seriously damaged because of inadequate housing. Seven tons are packed away in the World War Memorial Building. An even larger quantity of less valuable records is stored in a warehouse and other buildings. They are inaccessible for research.
In our entire history, not one penny has been spent by the State to provide permanent facilities necessary for the protection and use of these priceless documents. The World War Memorial Building was constructed with donations and WPA funds.

The Archives Department occupies only 35 hundred square feet of floor space. It needs 16 thousand square feet.

A specially constructed and equipped building is urgently needed. The estimated cost is 350 thousand dollars. The money can be authorized from a surplus in the Funded Debt Sinking Fund. The State Treasurer assures me that this can be done safely.

It should be done to preserve these incomparable treasures for present and future generations.

**INDUSTRIAL SCHOOLS**

There are other matters that should give us grave concern.

Three of the dormitories at the Industrial School for White Boys are in deplorable condition. They should be torn down. Two are hazardous to human life. Faculty families also occupy parts of these dormitories and some live in basements of the infirmary and chapel. The dormitories should be replaced with separate cottages for trainees and faculty families. It will relieve one of our most urgent institutional needs. The estimated cost is 500 thousand dollars.

Another hazard exists at the Industrial School for White Girls because of overcrowded dormitories. A new 50-capacity dormitory should be built to fulfill this need as soon as economically feasible. It would allow alteration of the old dormitories for additional office space and more adequate staff quarters. Enlargement of the kitchen is also needed. The estimated cost of these improvements is 132 and a half thousand dollars.

**OTHER INSTITUTIONS**

At John de la Howe School an improved water system is urgently needed. The tank that supplies water for domestic purposes is in such bad condition that it may become useless at any time. Consideration should be given to this need.

The State Penitentiary will soon complete a two-million-dollar building program financed by penitentiary-earned income. However, the institution still faces problems. More adequate medical and surgical treatment, and a psychiatric ward are needed. Also, the
Penitentiary is expected to outgrow existing facilities in the near future. These problems should receive your attention.

MENTAL HEALTH

The needs of our mental institutions are so vast as to defy immediate solution for all of them. Some relief has been given but the cost of needs still remaining is estimated at more than 20 million dollars.

Despite improvements, authorized at the State Hospital in recent years, at a cost of nine million dollars, undesirable conditions still exist. Among other things, the hospital is presently overcrowded by 16 hundred fifty patients.

Although physical needs of both divisions are estimated at 13 1/2 million dollars, only six million is requested for next year to correct the more urgent needs. The hospital is also requesting additional medical personnel to improve its treatment program.

Recent improvements to increase accommodations at Whitten Village have cost more than one million dollars. Yet, today, the school has more than 200 on the waiting list. Applications are being received at the rate of almost one a day. Additional dormitories and hospital facilities are needed.

Initial construction at the new Pineland Training School for Negro defectives cost more than one million dollars. Although it has dormitory space for 360, the school has only 212 trainees for lack of operating funds. Two new dormitories are still unoccupied. Yet between 700 and 800 are eligible for admission. The estimated cost of facilities needed today is two million dollars, of which 850 thousand is requested this year for the more urgently needed buildings. Additional needs of the next few years are estimated at 3 1/2 million dollars.

The needs of these institutions should be carefully studied and adequate plans developed under which at least their most urgent problems can be solved.

The Mental Health Commission hopes eventually to relieve the State Hospital of some of its burden by preventing mental illness. To this end, it has activated mental health clinics for early diagnosis and treatment and has begun an educational program to acquaint parents and schools with preventive measures.
I think you will agree that a great deal should be done to put our house in order, but our problem today is also one that deals with the future.

We cannot move successfully into full realization of the future without our own scientists and technicians.

**NUCLEAR EDUCATION**

Therein is a great challenge to our State-supported institutions of higher learning.

I am pleased to tell you that the administrations at the University and Clemson are aware of what has to be done and have already taken steps to include nuclear science courses in their curricula next fall.

To assist States in meeting strange and new problems, the Atomic Energy Commission has funds available for nuclear instruction equipment. Clemson had already requested 70 thousand dollars, and the University in the near future will request 320 thousand dollars.

The University will announce soon the details of an "Institute of Nuclear Physics"—essential schooling for scientists and engineers.

Clemson has plans for the location of a nuclear research reactor. A few of the benefits which may be realized are the use of radio-isotopes and radioactive tracers for improving industrial processes, the preparation of better seeds and plants for our farmers; and the preservation of foods.

South Carolina is fortunate to be the home of the important Savannah River Project. We should explore with the Atomic Energy Commission the possibility of cooperative arrangements in training and research at the project.

As we slowly move into the realities of the Atomic Age, one fact is clear. It will be costly. Nuclear physicists and scientists are at a premium as teachers—and command high salaries. The use of nuclear equipment also requires buildings, utilities and installations.

**Education**

The rising cost of government necessitates our utilizing every means to keep costs down.

During the past six years, the State has allocated for school construction and related improvements 170 million dollars.
If we are to receive the full value of this investment, we must match our revolution in public school construction with a renaissance in public school education.

The quality of education should be at least comparable to the quality of our school buildings.

While it is prudent to provide the best education possible, it should be done in the most frugal way.

In this connection, thought should be given to the possibility of a pilot school for determining the desirability of operating schools on a 12-month basis to relieve crowded conditions and lighten the burden of future school construction.

While there is a need for more teachers, there is a reservoir of men and women in our State who are highly qualified and whose services are not being used. Many of them could be interested to teach for a few hours each day. Enabling these people to serve on a part-time basis might greatly reduce any shortage of teachers as well as give our schools their valuable services.

**School Bus Transportation**

Under our present method of financing school bus operations the State is losing approximately 300 thousand dollars a year. Local authorities in the counties charge motor fuel purchases to the State. The Highway Department maintenance shops repair and maintain the buses, but also charge all costs to the State. The Educational Finance Commission pays the bills.

During the last year, school buses for the State as a whole averaged 5.6 miles per gallon. One county had the same mileage record. Thirty counties had a better record, but fifteen counties had a worse record. Differences in maintenance and repair costs are equally as great. One county, with buses averaging four years of age, cost the State 594 dollars per bus. Another with older buses cost the State less than 250 dollars per bus.

A system that would allow so much per mile for motor fuels and for maintenance and repair may be the best solution.

**Planning Division**

Economy in using taxpayers' money is essential.

Within the past few months, the Budget and Control Board has employed a planning engineer. In two weeks his advice on plans
and requests for physical improvements saved the State more than his entire annual salary.

Many of you will find his services invaluable as you study our building needs.

The magnitude of this work requires additional professional and technical personnel.

There is at present no permanent record of the physical conditions of our State buildings and institutions. We have no current record of construction, maintenance needs, or costs. Except for our newly-employed engineer, we have no technical advice in developing economical plans for permanent improvements. Our institutions need such advice to make reasonable requests. Large savings can be made by constant supervision of construction work.

To insure that the public receives full value for every dollar spent on physical improvements, I recommend that a Planning Division be established under the Budget and Control Board. It will save the State vast sums of money.

We must also be alert to the economy of wise investment. In that regard, one of the major recommendations I make to you has to do with South Carolina's seaports which are important keys to our economic future.

**Ports**

The General Assembly last year authorized a 10-million-dollar bond issue to build dockage facilities. Later, I appointed a special committee to study thoroughly the actual needs of our ports. It had the aid of experts.

The committee study now indicates that the authorized bond issue will not be sufficient. It would not provide major revenue-producing facilities. Instead, a 21-million dollar bond issue is recommended.

This would enable us to construct warehouses, double berthing space, expand dock and loading facilities, and completely renovate deteriorating storage spaces.

The results would be far-reaching. The Ports Authority, already operating at near-maximum, would be expected to triple net income by 1961.

Of more importance so far as the bond issue is concerned, revenue-producing facilities, which the larger issue will provide, would enable the Authority to contribute 16 million dollars toward reti-
ing the bond debt. The larger bond issue would cost the State actually less money, because the smaller issue would provide few if any revenue-producing facilities.

South Carolina is at a critical point in port development. We can go forward with resulting accelerated industrial expansion—or we can fail to meet our port needs and be outstripped by other states in providing a more bountiful life for our people.

CONCLUSION

The state of our State today impresses me with our responsibility for the future. The potential of the infinite atom almost defies mere statement of a future policy.

Yet, we are men and women of strong belief in unchanging fundamentals. What finer expression of faith in the Atomic age could we choose for ourselves than one selected by our forebears almost two centuries ago? Across our Seal of State is a Latin motto.

It means: "Prepared in mind and resources."